

CLAIMS AMENDMENTS

CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) An Expandable intragastric balloon designed to be implanted in the stomach of a patient for the treatment of obesity, ~~and~~ comprising:

_____ (a) an outer casing (2) that is sufficiently flexible to pass from a reduced-volume configuration to an expanded configuration, thereby imparting the balloon (1) with its functional shape, and

~~characterized in that it comprises:~~

_____ (b) means for forming (3) the outer casing (2), which are structurally integrated into the balloon (1) and primarily separate from the outer casing (2), said forming means (3) being capable of being actuated, once the balloon (1) has been implanted, on the one hand, in order to exert a sufficient driving pressure on the outer casing (2) to force it to deploy and, on the other hand, to occupy a sufficient volume inside said outer casing (2) to ensure the deployment of the outer casing (2) from its reduced-volume configuration to its expanded configuration.

2. (Currently Amended) The Intragastric balloon of eClaim 1, characterized in that wherein the forming means (3) ~~consist~~ comprises of an inflation chamber (4), which is different from the outer casing (2) and which is arranged inside thereof so as to ensure its formation by the introduction of an inflating fluid into said inflation chamber (4).

3. (Currently Amended) The Intragastric balloon of eClaim 2, characterized in that wherein the inflation chamber (4) and the outer casing (2) are shaped such that, when the inflation chamber (4) occupies its expanded position, the outer casing (2) substantially matches the shape of said inflation chamber (4).

4. (Currently Amended) The Intragastric balloon as claimed in eClaim 2 or 3, characterized in that wherein the inflation chamber (4) ~~consists~~ comprises of an inner pouch (5) that is sufficiently flexible to pass from a reduced-volume position to an expanded position.

5. (Currently Amended) The intragastric balloon of eClaim 4, ~~characterized in that~~wherein the inner pouch (5) ~~consists of~~ comprises an elastomer material.
6. (Currently Amended) The intragastric balloon as claimed in eClaim 4 or 5, ~~characterized in that~~wherein the inner pouch (5) is defined by a wall (6) including at least one shield that is substantially impervious to gases.
7. (Currently Amended) The intragastric balloon of eClaim 6, ~~characterized in that~~wherein the shield ~~includes in its composition~~ comprises at least one polymer having a gas barrier effect.
8. (Currently Amended) The intragastric balloon of eClaim 7, ~~characterized in that~~wherein the shield ~~consists~~ comprises of one or more thermoplastic polymers having a gas barrier effect.
9. (Currently Amended) The intragastric balloon of eClaim 8, ~~characterized in that~~wherein the shield comprises ~~consists of~~ one or more polymers selected from the group of polymers ~~having a gas barrier effect, such as consisting of~~ ethylene vinyl alcohol (EVOH), poly(vinylidene chloride) (PVDC), polyacrylonitrile (PAN), polyamide (PA), bi-oriented polyamide, poly(ethylene terephthalate) (PET), bi-oriented poly(ethylene terephthalate), and thermoplastic elastomer polyurethane.
10. (Currently Amended) The intragastric balloon as claimed in one of eClaims 4 to 9, ~~characterized in that~~wherein the inner pouch (5) ~~consists of~~ comprises at least one thermoplastic elastomer polyurethane film.
11. (Currently Amended) The intragastric balloon as claimed in one of the preceding eClaims 1, ~~characterized in that~~wherein the outer casing (2) ~~consists of~~ comprises a bio-compatible material.
12. (Currently Amended) The intragastric balloon as claimed in one of the preceding eClaims 1, ~~characterized in that~~wherein the outer casing (2) ~~consists of~~ comprises an elastomer material.

13. (Currently Amended) The intragastric balloon of eClaim 12, characterized in thatwherein the outer casing (2) is made of silicone.

14. (Currently Amended) The intragastric balloon of eClaim 13, characterized in thatwherein the silicone is colored white by treating with barium sulfate.

15. (Currently Amended) The intragastric balloon as claimed in one of the preceding eClaims 1, characterized in thatwherein the outer casing (2) is covered with parylene.

16. (Currently Amended) The intragastric balloon as claimed in one of eClaims 2 to 15, characterized in thatwherein the inflating fluid is a gas.

17. (Currently Amended) The intragastric balloon as claimed in one of eClaims 2 to 16, characterized in thatwherein the inflation chamber (4) is designed to have a substantially spherical shape; in its expanded position.

18. (Currently Amended) The intragastric balloon as claimed in one of eClaims 2 to 17, characterized in thatwherein the inflation chamber (4) and the outer casing (2) are substantially movable in relation to each other.

19. (Currently Amended) The intragastric balloon as claimed in one of eClaims 2 to 18, characterized in thatwherein the inflation chamber (4) and the outer casing (2) are substantially concentric.

20. (Currently Amended) The intragastric balloon as claimed in one of eClaims 2 to 19, characterized in thatwherein the inflation chamber (4) is covered with parylene.

21. (New) The intragastric balloon of Claim 3, wherein the inflation chamber comprises an inner pouch that is sufficiently flexible to pass from a reduced-volume position to an expanded position.

22. (New) The intragastric balloon of Claim 5, wherein the inner pouch is defined by a wall including at least one shield that is substantially impervious to gases.